

DUXBURY

Substance abuse foe honored for service

By KENDRA JOHNSON
The Patriot Ledger

DUXBURY — Nearly 30 people visited the high school student lounge yesterday to lavish kisses, handshakes and gifts on a longtime community volunteer at a reception in his honor.

Frank LeBart has resigned from the alcohol-drug awareness committee after serving 13 years, nine of them as chairman.

As a member of the committee, LeBart helped establish the alcohol and drug-free prom weekend, during which adults pledge to abstain from drinking alcohol for two days.

LeBart said he was motivated to be part of the committee after six Duxbury teenagers died in drunken-driving accidents between 1984 and 1986.

"I've always been interested and concerned about young people," LeBart said. "I just love talking to them."

Selectman Margaret Kearney praised LeBart for educating the public about the problems associated with alcohol and drug use.



LeBart

"This community is so blessed that you took the time and you started tackling the problem that the rest of us hoped wouldn't come to us," Kearney said.

Bill Thomas, a former member of the alcohol-drug awareness committee, talked about his work with LeBart, including raising \$66,000 to bring a three-year drug education program to the schools in the 1980s.

"A lot of the things we do to keep our children safe and our community safe is a result of the hard work of Frank LeBart," Thomas said.

LeBart was presented with certificates of recognition from selectmen and, jointly, the alcohol-drug awareness committee and school health council.

DARE officer Cully Rossi gave LeBart a DARE jacket and hat.

"I've lived in well over a dozen communities, and Duxbury is my favorite," LeBart told the audience.

LeBart is a retired public relations executive and will remain active in the community as a trustee of Pilgrim Church, a member of the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra advisory committee and a member of a condominium association.